

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219745
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /057 R

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APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

H (INFO)

-----011129 292326Z /75

O 292259Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 219745

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC RULE
IN KOREA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM
42 CONGRESSMEN WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 29. THE LETTER WAS SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMEN
FASCELL AND FRASER AND CIRCULATED FOR THEIR COLLEAGUES'
SIGNATURE EARLIER THIS MONTH.

2. BEGIN TEXT

A. WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS CONTINUING CONCERN OVER THE
PLIGHT OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

B. RECENTLY, PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE WAS CERTIFIED FOR
ANOTHER SIX-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE THROUGH AN ELECTORAL
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PROCESS ALARMINGLY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE
WAS CHOSEN WITHOUT A SINGLE OPPOSING VOTE BY THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION, AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE CHAIRED
BY PRESIDENT PARK HIMSELF. UNDER THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION,
VOTING WAS BY SECRET BALLOT AND DEBATE WAS NOT PERMITTED.
THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ALSO SERVES AS A RUBBER STAMP FOR
FILLING ONE-THIRD OF THE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT. PERSONS
AFFILIATED WITH POLITICAL PARTIES ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW
FROM RUNNING FOR SEATS IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

C. WE BELIEVE THE STRENGTH OF OUR MILITARY ALLIANCE
WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS BEING UNDERMINED BY ANTI-
DEMOCRATIC RULE, OF WHICH PRESIDENT PARK'S REELECTION
IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT
OUR MOST DURABLE ALLIANCES ARE WITH GOVERNMENTS WHICH
OWE THEIR AUTHORITY TO THE FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF A
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO GIVE SOLID
SUPPORT TO THE DEFENSE OF NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES.

D. IN YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE
A VOICE TO STATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE RIGHTS OF MAN
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES ALIKE
SHOULD KNOW THAT THE BASIC VALUES OF OUR PEOPLE WILL BE
REFLECTED IN OUR FOREIGN POLICIES. YOU HAVE MADE THIS
CLEAR TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES. WE URGE
YOU ALSO TO INDICATE STRONGLY THAT AUTHORITARIANISM AMONG
ALLIES IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS OF OUR ALLIANCES.
AFTER 30 YEARS OF AMERICAN TUTELAGE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
IS NOW A MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG DICTATORSHIP.
IT MAY BE BEYOND THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES TO RESTORE
REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, BUT OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS SHOULD
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LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE TAKE EXCEPTION TO ANTIDEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT.

END TEXT.

; FOLLOWING CONGRESSMEN SIGNED THE LETTER TO THE
PRESIDENT: FASCELL, FRASER, BEDELL, BEILENSEN,
BRADEMAS, BURTON, JOHN; CAVANAUGH, CONYERS, DELLUMS,
DIGGS, DOWNEY, DRINAN, EDGAR, EDWARDS, DON; EILBERG,
FENWICK, GILMAN, GLICKMAN, HARKIN, HARRINGTON, HOLTZMAN,
HUGHES, KILDEE, KREBS, LEHMAN, MARKEY, MEYNER, MITCHELL,
MOFFETT, OTTENGER, PANETTA, PATTISON, PEASE, RANGEL,
ROSENTHAL, ROYBAL, RYAN, SEIBERLING, SOLARZ, STUDDS,
WEISS, WHALEN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMOCRACY, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE219745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH,JR.:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0223
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780811/aaaaajgy.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9aa1759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1569747
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC RULE IN KOREA
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9aa1759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014